

PROTEST REACHES PRIVATE PROPERTY, PG 3

Celebrity Buzz

Watts plans to pose for a nude painting pg 34



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Cops to look into RCMP shooting

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INVESTIGATION Halifax Regional Police were called in to investigate an RCMP shooting in Cape Breton.

John Andrew Simon, 44, was shot by an RCMP officer on Tuesday night and died later in the hospital.

It happened in the Wagmatcook First Nations community near Baddeck. A woman called in a domestic complaint to the RCMP at 8:45 p.m. on Tuesday night. When two officers arrived, the woman had already left the house.

They were told there was a firearm involved.

Police were negotiating with the man for about 90 minutes when an "incident occurred" where one of the officers fired a gun.

RCMP aren't saying yet what the incident was.

"That's under investigation to see exactly what happened inside the house, and we have to interview all the parties, including the member whose firearm was discharged," said RCMP spokesman Sgt. Mark Gallagher. "We want to have the independent investigators look into the matter to see whether or not there was an imminent threat at the time."

First aid was applied at the scene and the man was rushed to the Baddeck hospital, but he died.

The victim was taken to Halifax yesterday where an autopsy was scheduled.



An electronics-store employee watches Prime Minister Stephen Harper deliver a national televised address in Calgary yesterday. Harper said the Liberal-NDP coalition would damage the country's unity, economy and democracy.

Prime-time PM

Harper goes to the airwaves to address political crisis

Prime Minister Stephen Harper will meet with Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean this morning in a bid to save his government from being replaced by an NDP-Liberal coalition.

In his first televised address to the nation as prime minister, a determined Harper took to the airwaves last night to argue the NDP-Liberal coalition that would replace the Conservatives if the government loses a confidence vote scheduled for Monday, would damage the country's unity, economy and democracy.

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion fought back with his own pitch to Canadians, saying the Conservatives

"At a time of global economic instability, Canada's government must stand unequivocally for keeping the country together. At a time like this, a coalition with the separatists cannot help Canada."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper

"have lost the right to govern."

Harper steered clear of what specific option he will put to the Governor General when he visits her at this morning.

But his goal, cabinet ministers said privately, is to go to her to buy time, and give all political parties a "time out" until late January. He would do this by requesting

that Parliament be prorogued, meaning that this session, which began less than three weeks ago, would end, and the government would return with a new throne speech next month.

In the interim, one senior government member suggested, Harper would start to roll out plans for economic stimulus measures

that would be contained in the budget that he has said will come on Jan. 27.

Harper charged the opposition coalition "wants to overturn" the results of the Oct. 14 election before the budget is brought down.

"At a time of global economic instability, Canada's government must stand unequivocally for keeping the country together. At a time like this, a coalition with the separatists cannot help Canada," he said.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
MORE COVERAGE PGS 6, 8**

VIDEO Watch Prime Minister Harper's address to the nation at metronews.ca/canada

Dairy prices expected to go up in '09

FARMERS The price of powdered skim milk, along with butter, ice cream and cheese, could go up in February.

The Canadian Dairy Commission said yesterday that starting Feb. 1, 2009, farmers will get a one per cent increase in the price they get for so-called "industrial milk" — the milk used to make yogurt, cheese, butter and skim-milk powder. Fluid milk and cream aren't affected by the hike.

This is the second price hike the commission has approved this year. The price went up two per cent Sept. 1.

Normally, prices are reviewed once per year.

RACHEL BOOMER/METRO HALIFAX

Sports pg 13

Hollett has his sights set on the UFC

Food pg 25

A TASTE of CANADA
A CULINARY JOURNEY
ROSE MURRAY



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Gift Guide pgs 15-23

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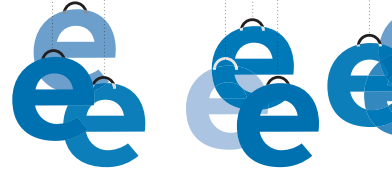
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Halifax Explosion anniversary events planned

This Saturday is the 91st anniversary of the Halifax Explosion, and the city will hold a ceremony to commemorate it beginning at 8:55 a.m. at Fort Needham Memorial Park. For more Explosion events, visit www.halifax.ca/halifaxexplosion. **METRO HALIFAX**

Local



Fresh start for endangered martens

Five endangered American martens were released yesterday in Cape Breton Highlands National Park in Cheticamp. The American marten, a member of the weasel family, has been on the endangered list since 2001. Trappers killed marten from the 1700s until the early 1900s.

METRO HALIFAX

Still hope for missing crew, says official

SINKING Crews are still out searching for four people off the coast of Newfoundland.

A small cargo ship named the MV Cap Blanc, sunk at 2 p.m. at about 16 kilometres out of Marystown in the Burin Peninsula. The four crewmembers onboard are missing.

Two Cormorant helicopters from Newfoundland, and a Hercules aircraft from Nova Scotia have been searching. A RCMP patrol boat and two coast guard vessels are also involved.

"They cut back on some of the assets Tuesday night, but the coast guard vessel George R. Pearkes was on scene all night long and the search will continue all day (today)," said Mike Bonin, base public affairs officer with CFB Halifax.

There's still hope of finding the missing sailors alive, Bonin said.

"There's a lot of variables when it comes to that: It depends on the wind, the water temperature, it also depends on what clothing they're wearing, if they had the chance to put on survival suits," he said.

The Cap Blanc was a 30-metre long vessel based in St. Pierre et Miquelon, south of Newfoundland.

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

CORRECTION In yesterday's Metro, a story on budget cuts at Capital Health incorrectly stated they were considering closing the Dartmouth General emergency room overnight. It is actually the operating room that is being considered for overnight closures. If implemented, emergency surgeries would instead be done at other hospitals.

METRO HALIFAX

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Video Another day of political punchups in Ottawa at metronews.ca/canada

Video Can cellphones actually pop popcorn? Find out at metronews.ca/canada

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 2, 8, 12, 22, 36 and 37. Bonus 23
These results are not official.

Protesters target private home

Employee's house surrounded by group upset over shelter

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

Community services say they are stepping up security after protesters surrounded the house of a government employee yesterday at dawn.

Halifax Coalition Against Poverty members banged on doors and windows and held a mock funeral on the lawn of Lynn Brogan, a community services regional administrator. HCAP says the closing of the Pendleton Place homeless shelter will lead to deaths and community services is responsible.

"What the city needs is a diversity of shelter services," said HCAP member James Babbitt. "Community Services should have consulted with the rest of the service provider community."



Michael Poworoznyk, executive director of the St. Leonard's Society of Nova Scotia, stands outside the Metro Turning Point shelter in this file photo from February.

The St. Leonard's Society, which runs Pendleton Place, merged with Metro Turning Point this fall. The shelters decided to merge and ex-

pand one shelter while shutting down the other.

Community Services spokeswoman Linda Laffin said it wasn't fair to target a

government employee on her personal property.

"HCAP have shown again that they're nothing but bullies. This kind of vile activity

"This kind of vile activity and intimidating people in their own homes is clearly crossing the line."

Community Services spokeswoman Linda Laffin

and intimidating people in their own homes is clearly crossing the line," she said.

Community services will look into beefing up security for employees.

"HCAP are not interested in speaking with us," said Laffin. "When they burst into your newsroom and chanted so that nobody can speak and your employees are frightened, how effective is that?"

Pendleton Place operators should have consulted community: Halifax Coalition Against Poverty



Protest participant James Babbitt sits at HCAP headquarters yesterday. Babbitt says the early morning demonstration at a civil servant's house was justified.

Shelter operators say they were the ones who wanted Pendleton Place closed and yesterday's HCAP protest of a government employee's home will hurt their cause.

The Pendleton Place shelter closed when its operator, St. Leonard's Society, merged with Metro Turning Point. The two groups said they merged to have one full-time expanded shelter to give better service.

But with protesters demonstrating at an employee's home and the department now looking into security matters, the society says this isn't helping.

"That starts to divert attention and resources of the department to an issue we're not even talking about," said St.

Leonard's Executive Director Michael Poworoznyk.

"If they need to divert their thinking to how they can provide health and safety for their staff, then I'm concerned that will cloud the issue that we're talking about."

Even though the shelter operators planned and proposed the merger, HCAP says the protest at a community services worker's home was warranted because the government didn't consult the general community.

HCAP member James Babbitt said fewer shelters will mean someone dying on the streets of Halifax this winter, and the blood is on the government's hands.

"When Pendleton was

closed down, that created a gap in services," said Babbitt.

"If you're on the street, there's a lot of stresses you're dealing with every day. Occasionally, you may behave in ways that might jeopardize your ability to stay in that shelter for the evening. When you have another shelter available, people will be able to hop between shelters when they need to."

However, Poworoznyk insists the shelter will take in everyone they would have before, and they are actually now getting about \$100,000 more from the government. He said there are enough shelters and Halifax needs to focus on more assisted housing.

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX

Fishermen to keep traps in

LOBSTER More than 500 lobster fishermen voted in Yarmouth to return to fishing, rather than pull their traps from the water for the balance of the season.

The fishermen have been receiving about \$3.25 per pound for their catch — a rate so low they are unable to cover their expenses.

"There's no doubt market conditions are bad," said MLA Harold (Junior)

Theriault, fisheries critic for the Liberals who said 560 fishermen met in Yarmouth to discuss their course of action and the vast majority of them — more than 500 — wanted to get back to work.

On Monday, they brought their boats to harbour and staged an impromptu protest, blocking lobster trucks headed for destinations outside the region.

METRO HALIFAX

Infrastructure spending likely stimulus

The government is looking to boost infrastructure spending next year in the hopes of stimulating Nova Scotia's economy.

"The premier and I have heard from a panel of economists and others that the most productive expenditures that a government can make at these times are infrastructure," said Finance Minister Michael Baker.

"Infrastructure not only

will help stimulate your economy in the short time — it increases your GDP — it also has the double advantage of preparing you to come out of a downturn."

The increase on spending may threaten the government's plans to pay down the provincial debt. Baker said the debt is important but it must be weighed against the health of the economy.

There were earlier leaked reports of a \$100-million stimulus coming from the government possibly before the next budget.

But Baker said it would be all but impossible to start capital spending before the next fiscal year. MacDonald said the \$100-million figure was false, and said it was too early to name an amount.

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX



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4

local

Grads with disabilities on par with peers: Survey A survey by the Education Department of 2006 grads found 88 per cent of grads with disabilities were working in 2007, compared to 89 per cent of grads without disabilities. **METRO HALIFAX**



Alan Richardson of Nova Scotia Power speaks at the Canadian Tire store in Sackville yesterday. Six Canadian Tire locations in Nova Scotia will save more than one million kilowatt hours each year as part of a Nova Scotia Power energy-efficiency and conservation initiative.

Retailers cut back on energy, costs

NS Power aids efforts through incentives

EDANA ROBITAILLE
for Metro Halifax

Going green is saving green for some local businesses. The push for businesses to become more environmentally friendly has led to a concentrated effort to reduce energy consumption.

Six Canadian Tire stores in the province have worked with Nova Scotia

Power through a program that offers companies incentives to cut back on energy.

This has allowed the Lower Sackville store to save 180,000 kilowatt hours, enough energy to heat 20 homes.

Other companies are making changes, too. The new NSLC on Tacoma drive in Dartmouth has applied to become LEED certified. This means that the build-

ing is comprised of mainly recycled materials and has cut back on things such as water.

Rick Perkins from the NSLC believes that it will become the first retail store in the province to get the LEED certification if it is approved.

ShareYourViews

halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Childcare chain links with companies

EMPLOYEES Moms and dads, prepare to be jealous.

As any working parent knows, daycare costs can be \$700 to \$800 a month just for one kid — and that's if you can get a spot.

A national daycare chain, Kids & Company, is setting up shop in Halifax in the new year. It's member-only, where companies pay to reserve spots for their employees' children.

Depending on the company, employees might not have to spend a penny on childcare.

"It's a benefit that companies actually deliver to their staff," said Andrew Doyle, president of Extreme Group.

His public relations company is the agency of record for Kids & Company and the first member for the Halifax

"It's actually a retention tool for a lot of companies to say they offer this service."

Andrew Doyle,
Extreme Group

location.

"In our business, and in a lot of businesses, if I'm working late and my wife is working late we can have them keep our children there without penalty. They have staff on call," he said.

"It's a flexible tool for a business like ours."

Besides after-hours care, there's also an emergency drop off.

It might seem an expensive benefit for companies to shoulder, but Doyle said

Kids & Company make it more affordable because it's a nationwide chain, and the rates are worked out with each company.

Extreme Group employs about 20 parents.

"In our minds it's a reasonable cost for the flexibility it gives our staff and some the comfort it gives them in knowing their children are taken care of well," Doyle said.

The Halifax branch will open on Barrington Street in January. Doyle said Kids & Company is currently working on securing other customers.

"They have a lot of huge corporate clients (nationally)," he said. "It's actually a retention tool for a lot of companies to say they offer this service."

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Got a thing for gunnery?

Naval teams will participate in the annual St. Barbara's Day gunnery competition tomorrow between 10 and 11:30 a.m., aboard HMCS Sackville. **METRO HALIFAX**

local 5



Carine Abi-daoud poses with her family after being sworn in as a new Canadian citizen.

Proud to become new Canadians

KAMIA CREELMAN
for Metro Halifax

A toddler with dark curls wearing a pretty red dress jumped up and down yesterday, laughing and waving a Canadian flag.

Her mother had just become a Canadian citizen.

Carine Abi-daoud, 30, was one of 50 new Canadians sworn in yesterday morning. The ceremonial room at Immigration Canada's Halifax office was packed with boisterous, well-dressed Canadians, new and old. Family and friends clapped and cheered as their mothers, fathers, children and grandparents shook Judge Linda Carver's hand and received their certificates.

The new Canadians represented 23 countries. To end

the ceremony, Carver called out the countries of birth one by one, beginning with Afghanistan, to surge after surge of applause. When she reached Vietnam, a freshly minted Vietnamese-Canadian

stood up with her hands in the hair, tossed back her long black hair and hooted.

The RCMP and Halifax Regional Police had each sent an officer to say welcome and hand out flags. Many Canadians brandished their certificates as they took pictures with the officers in red and blue.

Carver held her head high as she said to the crowd, "Welcome. This is your country now."

"I love how respectful

Halifax is," Abi-daoud said, as she scanned the ceremony after-party and spied her family — her husband Fred, daughter, 2½, and son, 4.

"Even Halifax drivers have good manners ... better than Montreal."

Abi-daoud teaches French immersion in the Halifax area. She got her permanent contract last September, after five years of substituting and contract teaching.

"I use the Canadian national anthem to teach my students the feeling of standing straight, taking off hats." Her voice is direct, and her slight Lebanese accent softens her English.

"The feeling of respect is important."

"Welcome. This is your country now."

Judge Linda Carver

Judge cites protection of society in turning down Reykdal appeal

SENTENCING Glen Jarred Reykdal lost his appeal yesterday and was sentenced to five years for robbery and one year for assault with a weapon.

On June 9, 2006, Reykdal and two others forced their way into a hotel room in Bridgewater in what the Crown likened to a home invasion. They punched and kicked the two occupants.

On May 30, 2007, Reykdal and another punched, kicked and hit Connor Jessom with a wrench in his home in Truro. Reykdal then tried to feed Jessom the smoke-detector battery.

A statement released yes-

terday said the sentencing judge knew of Reykdal's difficult history, but felt "society could only be protected by the appellant's removal through incarceration."

Reykdal suffers from fetal alcohol syndrome. He was taken into foster care at nine months old, and for the next 2½ years was "allegedly physically abused and malnourished to the point of developmental delay," Judge Nancy Bateman said in the statement.

"Gratuitous violence (has) now become part of the substance abuse," the sentencing judge said.

KAMIA CREELMAN/
FOR METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

WARRANT Police found two sawed-off weapons in a search of a residence in Halifax on Tuesday night. Police executed a warrant and found a sawed-off shotgun and a sawed-off rifle. An 18-year-old man was arrested and will face several firearm-related charges.

CRASH Two men remain in the hospital with serious injuries after a crash on Main Street in Dartmouth on Tuesday night. Police are still investigating the four-vehicle crash. A 65-year-old Cherry Brook man, the driver of a Chevy Epica, and a P.E.I. man in his 20s, the driver of a Chevy Cavalier, are in the hospital. Two 19-year-old men in a Honda Civic and an 18-year-old man in a Ford Ranger were not injured.

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Immigration officials yesterday told Dean Walcott, former U.S. marine and Iraq war resister, that he has until Jan. 6 to leave Canada or be deported. Robin Long, a war resister deported on June 3, was court-martialled and received two felony convictions. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Canada



Record-setting month

Canada's two major airlines said yesterday their planes had bigger passenger loads last month, despite economic turmoil. Both Air Canada and rival WestJet Airlines Ltd. said their November load factors, a measure of space on their planes filled by paying passengers, rose to a record for the month. But the two carriers improved for different reasons, with Air Canada benefiting from cutbacks while WestJet's traffic strengthened. **REUTERS**

News in brief

AIDS The Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange launched its Get the Facts Campaign yesterday. The campaign aims to empower people living with HIV to make well-informed treatment decisions

and improve their health. At the launch celebration, CATIE presented the first three posters and postcards in what will be a series of plain-language materials that encourage discussion about starting and ad-

hering to HIV treatment and other topics. The posters and postcards will be available free to community organizations across Canada through the CATIE Ordering Centre at www.catie.ca.

ALBERTA RCMP has made an arrest related to the murder of 14-year-old Emily Stauffer in Edson, Alta., taking an Edson man into custody yesterday, though charges were not immediately sworn. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Focus on economy, not partisanship, Dion tells nation

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion told Canadians that Stephen Harper has lost the confidence of the House of Commons and urged the Governor General to reject any request by the prime minister to temporarily suspend Parliament.

Responding to Harper's nationally-televised speech last night, Dion said he is asking Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean to ensure that the Conservative minority government faces a vote of confidence before any move to temporarily close down the House of Commons.

"In our Canada, the government is accountable for its decisions and actions in Parliament," Dion said.

Harper, whose minority government faces defeat on

its economic policies as early as Monday, may ask Jean today to close down Parliament until January, when the Conservatives plan to bring in a budget.

Dion devoted much of his talk to explaining the aims of the Liberal-New Democrat coalition that, with the support of the Bloc Québécois, plans to oust Harper and govern. "Canadians don't want another election, they want Parliamentarians to work together. That's our job ... put aside partisanship and focus on the economy."

In a separate press conference, NDP leader Jack Layton said that the Liberal-NDP coalition is an answer to the government's lack of action on the economy.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Stéphane Dion

Edmonton Rally-ready students



Students from the University of Alberta Conservative Association display signs they've made for an anti-coalition-government rally tomorrow outside the constituency office of NDP MP Linda Duncan — Alberta's lone non-Conservative MP.

RCMP ask for help in pipeline bombing

B.C. It is still not known if a single person or a group of people is behind three October bombings of natural gas facilities in Western Canada, police said yesterday.

"It could be one person acting alone. It could be somebody acting within a small group," Royal Canadian Mounted Police Sgt.

Tim Shields said as investigators renewed their plea for the public's help.

Police believe the saboteur, or saboteurs, lives in the same area of northeastern British Columbia where the three attacks occurred, and believe the motive is a grievance against pipeline owner Enbridge.

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Canada & world insight

The Conservatives built their recent re-election campaign around leadership. They put Stephen Harper front and centre in their effort to persuade Canadians that only he could lead them through the coming economic storm.

The problem for Harper was the popular distrust that has followed him around like a cranky footnote. While few doubted Harper's intelligence and discipline, they never found him very likeable.

Politics is all about marketing, and the selling of Stephen Harper has always been hard.

That he is cold and distant, that he is humourless and wooden, we knew. But politicians of that ilk, such as Richard Nixon, can get elected if they can persuade us of their competence. This Harper had done in 2½ years in office.

But to win a majority, to close the deal with Canadians, he had to make them more comfortable with him — to like him.

And so the smart Tory strategists dressed him in sweaters. They had him play the piano and play with children — all to make this wallflower look fragrant. It failed. Canadians denied Harper his majority, again.

The mask fell. Suddenly, there he was, his contempt laid bare.

When Parliament reconvened, he talked conciliation then he cancelled public financing of political

parties, bankrupting his opponents and suspended the right to strike of public servants.

We have never had a prime minister in memory quite like him. John Diefenbaker, Pierre Trudeau, Brian Mulroney and Jean Chrétien could brawl but had charm. Lester Pearson and Joe Clark were gentle souls.

Stephen Harper is something else. And that's why he and his government are in trouble today.

Andrew Cohen, a professor and journalist, is the author of *Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson*.

STEPHEN HARPER GOES INTO "CAMPAIGN MODE" TO SAVE HIS JOB:



MICHAEL DE ADIER

Views

Men, not poverty, are affecting crime rates



Neil Boyd

As Canada slips and slides toward higher rates of unemployment, many are asking whether this will increase crime.

The simple answer is that unemployment and crime rates are not system-

atically related.

Consider, for example, homicide in Canada.

For the past 50 years, British Columbia has had a rate of killing that is five times that of Newfoundland — a province that for decades languished under double-digit unemployment. What drives homicide rates (and most other crime rates) is not unemployment, or even poverty, but two more important

variables: culture and demographic shifts.

The culture of British Columbia is quite different from that of Newfoundland — the West has less community, a more transient population, and an established network of young men who use handguns as their tool of last resort in business transactions. Second, more than 70 per cent of all crime is committed by young men

between the ages of 15 and 29. If the percentage of the male population between these ages either increases or shrinks, crime rates will rise and fall accordingly. When crime in Canada began to rise in the late 1960s, it was because of the surge of the baby boomers. When crime rates began to fall in the early 1990s it was no surprise; the tail end of the surge of the baby boomers,

those born in 1964, left their crime prone years in 1993. In other words, tough economic times are not going to drive our crime rates down, or through the roof. Meaningful change depends on our culture and the communities we create — and, unfortunately, on the prevalence of young men in our populations.

Neil Boyd is a criminologist at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver

Letters

Harper dug his own grave, why all the shock?

I am shocked by the number of people who profess such outrage at the idea of a coalition government and then spout off about coup d'état, undemocratic, and all this other hyperbole. Prime Minister Harper was elected with a minority government, and as such it is first responsibility to govern in a manner based on co-operation with his opposition parties

PAUL CASKEY
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Family of trampled Wal-Mart employee files lawsuit
The family of a man killed in a stampede of frenzied holiday shoppers filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against Wal-Mart Stores Inc. yesterday, seeking unspecified damages. Shoppers on New York's Long Island broke down doors and surged into the Valley Stream Wal-Mart at 5 a.m. last Friday. **REUTERS**

World/Business

Pakistan urged to co-operate

The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff urged Pakistan yesterday to investigate all possible links between the Mumbai attacks and Pakistani groups and to broaden its campaign against militants.

Admiral Mike Mullen flew in for talks with Pakistan's eight-month-old civilian government and military commanders, as part of U.S. diplomatic efforts to defuse tension between Pakistan and India after the Mumbai attacks.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was in

FBI gathering evidence in India

Attorney General Michael Mukasey said yesterday that FBI agents are working with Indian police to provide assis-

tance and gather evidence about the attacks by militants in India's financial hub of Mumbai that killed 171 people.

New Delhi to consult the Indian government.

Mullen urged Pakistani officials to "investigate aggressively any and all possible ties to groups based in Pakistan", the U.S. embassy said in a statement.

Mullen noted the recent success of Pakistani offensives against militants on

the Afghan border and "also encouraged Pakistani leaders to take more, and more concerted, action against militant extremists elsewhere in the country."

Rice urged Pakistan to co-operate "fully and transparently" in the investigation. She is due in Islamabad on Thursday, the prime minis-

ter's office said.

Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said the attacks on Mumbai that killed 171 people, including Americans and other foreigners, were led from inside Pakistan, and said India would act decisively to protect its territorial integrity.

Meanwhile, Pakistan killed up to 30 Islamist militants in an air strike and three soldiers and a civilian were killed in a suicide attack in the northwest near the Afghan border yesterday, officials said.

REUTERS

Congo Peacekeeping on hold



A child plays in a puddle in a camp for displaced people yesterday near the town of Mugunga, Democratic Republic of Congo. Belgium said yesterday it saw no prospect of a European peace-keeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, for now.

PETER ANDREWS/REUTERS

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News in brief

PROTEST Anti-government protesters lifted their crippling, eight-day blockade of Thailand's main airport yesterday, raising the hopes of 230,000 stranded tourists even though there is no end in sight to the wider political crisis.

TREATY More than 90 nations, including Canada, signed a treaty yesterday to ban cluster bombs that have killed and maimed thousands of people, though powerful arms producers including the United States, Russia and China, remain outside the pact.

SCIENCE Man-made noise in the world's seas and oceans is becoming an increasing threat to whales, dolphins and turtles who use sound to communicate, forage for food and find mates, wildlife experts said yesterday.

REUTERS

Business

Housing sales stall

Canada's real-estate market is expected to be "somewhat static" for at least the next six months as the economic downturn makes potential buyers extra cautious, while the average house price is expected to fall, according to a report released yesterday.

The Re/Max Housing Market Outlook, which tracks 22 markets across the country, says it expects 440,000 homes to change hands in 2008, down 15 per cent from 2007. It predicted the

same number of sales for next year, but the first six to nine months of 2009 will be under pressure from volatility in financial markets and the threat of recession.

Housing markets should recover as stability returns to the financial sector, the report said, and a bounce-back could occur "as early as spring."

Eleven major markets are expected to match or exceed 2008 home sales next year, with Saskatoon seen leading the charge. **REUTERS**

RIM to push Certicom offer

TAKEOVER BlackBerry maker Research In Motion said yesterday it plans to make a direct takeover offer to Certicom Corp shareholders of \$1.50 a share in cash because it has been unable to advance talks with the encryption software firm's management. The offer, which comes after RIM cut its third-quarter profit and revenue outlook, represents a 76.5 per cent premium over the closing price of Certicom stock on Dec. 2, RIM said. **REUTERS**

In brief

MARKETS The S&P/TSX composite index closed down 30.85 points, or 0.37 per cent, at 8,296.96 with six of its 10 subindexes finishing lower.

RATE CUT New Zealand's central bank slashed interest rates by a record 150 basis points due to financial market turmoil and a markedly weaker economy.

APPOINTMENT Heavy equipment dealer Finning International Inc. has appointed former MP David Emerson to its board of directors, the company said yesterday. **REUTERS**

THE DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

Magna Powertrain to close Cape Breton plant:

Magna Powertrain announced plans Tuesday to shut down its auto parts manufacturing plant in the Northside Industrial Park next year, throwing about 260 Cape Bretoners out of work. A company spokesperson said layoffs are not expected to begin until 2009, but that could change depending on orders from General Motors. "That plant employs 300 manufacturing jobs and to have her shut down will be devastating to the community," said Cape Breton Regional Municipality Coun. Gordon MacLeod.

Five weeks downtime for AbitibiBowater mill workers:

Employees at Bowater Mersey Paper Company Ltd. in Brooklyn, Queens So, learned late Monday that the AbitibiBowater Inc. newsprint mill would be shut down for five weeks starting four days before Christmas. According to a "Notice" sent to employees from Bruce Nunn, vice president and resident manager, "This downtime is required due to a drop in newsprint consumption and higher manufacturing costs." The downtime runs Dec. 21 to Jan. 26, 2009.

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The NFL will broadcast tonight's Raiders/Chargers game in 3D to theatres in New York, Boston and Los Angeles. Eight 3D camera crews will film the action for the test broadcast, which will have its own commentators. Viewers must don polarized lenses to see the action. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports



Avery faces the music today

The Stars' Sean Avery, a former Cole Harbour resident, will meet with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman today in New York to explain himself in the wake of controversial comments made Tuesday that resulted in his indefinite suspension. Avery's comments regarding actress Elisha Cuthbert ignited a storm of criticism from both teammates and opponents. Avery apologized for his remarks yesterday, saying "it was a bad attempt to build excitement for the game." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Mitchell out, Triano in

NBA The Toronto Raptors fired head coach Sam Mitchell yesterday, a day after the team suffered the fifth-worst defeat in



Mitchell

franchise history. Canadian assistant Jay Triano, formerly in charge of Canada's national team, was appointed interim coach and, according to Raptors president Bryan Colangelo, is expected to remain in the role through the end of the season. "It's safe to say after the debacle we all witnessed last night, a 39-point loss, not to mention several other instances ... you come to a point where you realize some of the things you want to see out there aren't taking place," Colangelo told reporters.

REUTERS

One-dimensional players not welcome

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The boys in the red and white may be a little green at this year's world junior championship in Ottawa.

Hockey Canada announced yesterday its 38-player selection camp roster for the world junior championship, a group that will gather for four days in Ottawa starting Dec. 11. Eighteen players coming to camp are aged 18 or younger, while there are only four returnees from the group that

won Canada's fourth straight gold medal last year.

"It could be a bunch of 18-year-olds that make it," head coach Pat Quinn said. "It will be about maturity. Let's face it: Some 18-year-olds are more mature than some at 19 or 25 for that matter. If we're young, that's what we are." The roster features four goalies, 14 defencemen and 20 forwards. John Tavares and Zach Boychuk and blueliners Thomas Hickey and P.K. Subban are the returnees.

Much-talked-about Montreal Junior forward Angelo Esposito will get a fourth crack at making the roster.

Some of the bigger names among the newcomers are Taylor Hall, an early favourite to go No. 1 in the 2010 NHL draft; Vancouver Canucks first-rounder Cody Hodgson; and St. Louis Blues fourth-overall pick Alex



Zach Boychuk, left, and P.K. Subban are two of the returning attendees.

Pietrangelo. One-dimensional players were not welcome.

"The guys coming to camp are real good players that do something elite but they have a well-rounded game,"

said the team's head scout, Al Murray. If Canada can win a fifth straight medal, it would match its own record of five straight titles from 1992 to 1997. "At the end of the day on Dec. 15, we're

hoping we can pick 22 men who will come together as a team," Quinn said. "It's not skill that wins in any game of hockey. It's how those skills blend to come together stronger as a unit."

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No trade freeze during world juniors for Q

The QMJHL will not freeze trading of players competing at the world junior championship, despite the fact that the Ontario Hockey League and Western Hockey League have imposed a ban. The OHL's freeze runs from Dec. 11 to Jan. 5, while WHL's is Dec. 19 to Jan. 5. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

sports **13**

Fairview's Roger Hollett thinking UFC

MATTHEW WUEST

matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Roger Hollett wants a call from the UFC, and a win on Friday night in Edmonton might just get it for him.

The Fairview mixed-martial artist is set to face Emanuel Newton of Norwalk, Calif., in defence of his Maximum Fighting Championship light heavyweight belt.

Hollett (8-1) captured the MFC belt last August, a win he hoped would propel him to the UFC.

But he blew out his knee a few months later and is only now regaining his footing.

"It should hopefully get

me closer to a shot at the UFC," Hollett said. "Newton already got the call. They want him, but he's got to honour his contract (to MFC) first. If I beat him, there's a good chance I'll get the call instead."

Hollett has fought once since tearing two knee ligaments in the only loss of his career against Lew Polley last November.

He enjoyed a triumphant return almost a year later when he beat Marcus Hicks on Sept. 20 in Halifax.

Newton (10-3-1) has won eight straight fights, and turned heads in September when he beat UFC veteran David Heath by submission.



Roger Hollett, right, is hoping his MFC belt propels him into the UFC.

The 24-year-old has a wrestling background, which clashes with Hollett's quick-strike approach.

"I'm gonna be looking

to keep it on the feet ... I'll be looking for the knockout," Hollett said. "He says he wants to stand with me, he wants to showcase his striking

skills, but I know he's just saying that. He's got a typical wrestler's style."

Newton told FCfight.com Hollett is "going to have to bring his A game,

because I'm definitely going to bring mine." He also said Hollett's "hands don't really impress me much."

Hollett said the favoured Heath took Newton lightly, and that he's not going to make the same mistake.

He says he feels like he's back to the form he was last year when he claimed the MFC belt for the first time. His win over Hicks helped convince him he was ready.

"It reassured me my knee was good and convinced me I'm ready to be back with the top competition," the 5-foot-11, 205-pounder said. "I'm just glad to be on my way back up."

Silverhorn used to Lewis' training-camp regimen

MATTHEW WUEST

matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The tactics of Halifax Rainmen head coach Rick Lewis might be a rude awakening for the team's newcomers, but it's nothing new for Brian Silverhorn.

Silverhorn, the second-leading scorer on last year's Rainmen, is one of three returnees at training camp.

He also spent part of the summer in Chicago training with Lewis.

Lewis, who has a background as a personal trainer, is basically running the equivalent of a basketball boot camp: Five hours a day on the hardwood, with sessions from 6 to 8 a.m. — yup, in the morning — and from 1 to 4 p.m.

"Last year this time, we were doing three-a-days," Silverhorn said with a laugh.

"Right now, we're just doing two-a-days, so we might have it made compared to last year."

The 6-foot-7 Silverhorn averaged 18.2 points per game and shot .394 from three-point range last season.

He also had a tryout with the Toronto Raptors in the off-season.

Some Rainmen newcomers didn't look particularly impressed with the running, and Silverhorn was left answering plenty of questions and easing

the concerns of newcomers.

"Every drill, it's like, 'What are we doing here? What are we gonna do next? When are we gonna be done?' It's kind of fun-

ny," Silverhorn said.

"Coach likes to run. But it's worth it. We'll be in shape and we won't regret it at all.

"The best shape I've ever been in is through

him."

Eric Crookshank joined the Rainmen yesterday, giving them 15 players — including five tryout invitees — at training camp.



Brian Silverhorn had a tryout with the Raptors this summer.

Sports in brief

HARNESS RACING Standard bredCanada.ca launched a campaign yesterday to support Somebeachsomewhere as the Lou Marsh award winner as Canada's athlete of the year. The Bible Hill-owned horse set three world records, won 20 of 21 races and earned more than \$2.5 million.

HOCKEY Former Dalhousie Tigers star Bobby Chaumont was named Central Hockey League's player of the month for November. The 24-year-old Mississippi RiverKings forward had 10 goals among 16 points in 13 games.

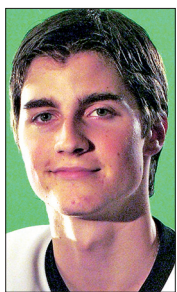
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Knotek going to Czech camp

HOCKEY Halifax Mooseheads forward Tomas Knotek will get a shot at the Czech Republic's world junior team.

Knotek, who leads the Mooseheads in scoring with 10 goals among 22 points in 20 games, will participate in his country's selection camp starting Dec. 15 in Brampton, Ont.

The 18-year-old played for the Czechs at the under-18 level and has an excellent chance at making the team.



Tomas Knotek

"When I talked to the coach in the summer, he told me I should be a key player and a leader," Knotek said. "Hopefully, I can showcase my offensive talent and it will be good."

The Mooseheads have had representatives at the world juniors the past few years, all with the Czechs. Forward Jakub Voracek and blueliner Jiri Suchy both competed at the event.

MATTHEW WUEST, METRO HALIFAX

2009 WEATHER GIRLS open audition

Sunday, December 7
12:00pm to 2:00pm
Citadel High School Gym

Prepare a 45-second
hip-hop dance routine
(focus on flexibility and rhythm)

All Weather Girls must be
19 years of age or older

DANCE EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 444-RAIN, ext. 25

Metro Homes

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

It's high time for a new home fixture

Stylish urinals can eliminate an ongoing domestic battle

HomeScape

Sylvia Putz



Any female who lives with men, boys or both has undoubtedly suffered through the major irritation associated with sitting on a wet toilet seat. And we know why it's wet. Yuck. There really is nothing worse.

While older men who are considerate of female members of the family may have more experience with, shall we say, accurate aim, the same cannot be said for lit-

tle boys or even older boys who are presumably still working on it.

Some may think leaving the toilet seat up is the answer. I beg to differ. I distinctly recall my mother's agitation late one night upon sitting down unexpectedly on the cold and clammy lip of the toilet. Needless to say, the seat had been left up. And I can assure you that my brothers were awakened directly from their peaceful slumber to hear her thoughts on the matter.

So, is there really no solution in this ongoing battle between male and female family members when it comes to toilet seats? You can always impose toilet rules and strictly enforce them, and this is an inex-

pensive option, to be sure.

But if you're considering renovating a bathroom, you can circumvent the problem entirely by installing a urinal. These units are primarily confined to a commercial market for now. Buying one is usually via special order, and plumbers and electricians are not yet accustomed to installing them.

But things are starting to change. I'm not the only one who can imagine the benefits. No more toilet seat battles. No more unpleasant surprises for the unwary. Less flushing of water. And it makes life easier for the person who cleans.

Not only that, a urinal in fact can be quite a style statement, sometimes exe-

cuted in a witty or humorous way, and not at all the grotty trough you might remember from visiting well-used bar toilets.

Even in its most basic form, it's a good-looking little gadget that is exclusively for the males in the family. And that's a nice change in a room that is usually a homage to the female idea of luxury and pampering.

You can order your basic white porcelain urinal as a special order item from most large hardware stores in your area, from about \$300 for an American Standard or Crane unit, to up to \$3,000 for an upscale Kohler model with contemporary styling.

For some cool ideas about how far you can go, consid-

er, for example, the urinals that look like outrageously blooming flowers (see the New Flower Urinal designs by Clark Sorensen, at Clarkmade.com).

For \$4,000 to \$10,000 US, you can aim into the bowl of a yellow tulip or Easter lily. The English have a witty version of a urinal called the Spoon, designed by Phillip Watts (phillipwattsdesign.com).

But one thing is clear. Whether you're looking at a showstopper or an unobtrusive white porcelain model, a urinal at home is an idea whose time has come.



Two models of Kohler's Steward waterless urinal.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in home decor and design. She has written extensively for the TV show Arresting Design.

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For more details, including all the prizes and how to enter, go to www.yourquest.ca.

Enter soon, the contest ends January 30, 2009.

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SQ22280

A real crowd pleaser

This Charity Box Holiday gift set — which includes a Charity Pot, Fair Trade Foot Lotion, Nutts, Karma Soap, and The Olive Branch Shower Gel — is also vegan-friendly. Available at Lush for \$59.99. For more, go to lush.ca. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Holiday Shopping Guide III

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Gamers' delight

KAREN FALCON
for Metro Canada

GOT A GAMER on your list? This roundup of recent releases (all under \$70) covers the best across the three major consoles and includes something for every age. Throw in extra batteries for controllers and you'll be a gift-giving mastermind.

Call of Duty: World at War

Platform: PS2, PS3, Nintendo DS, Wii, Xbox 360
Genre: First-person shooter
Rated: M: 17+

What better gift is there than a flamethrower? None. And you can give the gift of flamethrower by giving COD: World at War.

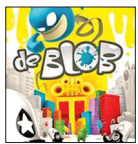
Powered by the same technology that made the rock-solid COD4 a superstar, this instalment of the franchise focuses on the climactic European and Pacific battles of WWII. I can't lie: It's the best-looking WWII game to date. Add the one-to-four player co-op mode and the replay value just keeps going up. Online multi-player doesn't disappoint.



de Blob

Platform: Wii, iPhone
Genre: Puzzle
Rated: E: Everyone

It's a colour revolution! OK: You're a ball. A jiggly, wriggly, gummy little ball that rolls around and restores colour to a monochromatic world, one bounce and splat at a time. You see, the evil INKT Corporation has taken over and outlawed all colour from daily life. Your mission is to investigate and reanimate 10 massive worlds. You'll be thumbstickin', arm wavin', zappin' and making other assorted silly and dramatic yet satisfying gestures to control "de Blob." The more colour you restore, the more stuff you unlock and more colours become available. Watching all this happen while you sit there smearing



paint over buildings and landmarks while waving your arms around like a lunatic is oddly entertaining and wickedly gratifying.

Fallout 3

Platform: PS3, Xbox 360
Genre: Action RPG
Rated: M: 17+

Two hundred years after a nuclear war ravages the Earth, in the year 2277, your character escapes out into the world in search of his missing father. This is a vast, open-ended game with a flexible character-levelevelling system in which what you choose to do makes a difference. On your journey you'll meet other survivors, complete quests, specialize your character, and battle the countless enemies inhabiting the wasteland. This instalment of the Fallout series feels good, looks good, plays incredibly well, is awesomely interactive, and begs to be played pretty much until you go blind.



LEGO Batman: The Videogame

Platform: PS2, PS3, PSP, Nintendo DS, Wii, Xbox 360
Genre: Action adventure
Rated: E: 10+

It's a game you can play with your kids. Or let them play with each other. Or forget the kids and play it yourself — it's Batman and it's LEGO. Play as Batman and play as Robin. Build stuff, drive a LEGO Batmobile, swing on bat cables, and capture escaped villains like The Joker and The Penguin. Or play as the evil dudes and wage war on the good guys while spreading mayhem throughout the awesome LEGO Gotham city — whatever your age, LEGO is cool.



Left 4 Dead

Platform: Xbox 3
Genre: Horror, shooter
Rated: M: 17+

Mmmm... zombies. Not just zombies, but zombies versus up to four co-op human players.

Slick and stylish with undead that move faster than you'd think the undead would, Left 4 Dead really brings it. It's fun, it's creepy, and, thanks to brilliant A.I. technology, it's different every single time you play. The game tailors itself to the player's abilities. How cool is that? Seriously, is there anything in gaming better than the human struggle against hordes of swarming zombies? Yep, there IS one thing better: The Left 4 Dead co-op human struggle against hordes of swarming zombies. This is the future of co-op.



Gears of War 2

Platform: Xbox 3
Genre: First-person shooter
Rated: M: 17+

OK, maybe there is a better gift than a flamethrower. Maybe it's a flamethrower and a chainsaw! Oh, wait. Maybe it's a flamethrower, a chainsaw, and a meat shield! You can give all this and more with Gears of War 2. It's good. It's really good. Story goes that you and your squad have to save the world — again — but



You can play as Batman or Robin in LEGO Batman: The Videogame.

don't worry, the story isn't really where it's at. The upgraded online multi-player is awesome. Did I mention the graphics are crispy-crunchy good, which makes toasting enemies look extra hot? Don't cheap out — if you're thinking of gifting GOW2, spring for a bag of marshmallows to go with.

Little Big Planet

Platform: PS3
Genre: Puzzle platformer
Rated: T: Teen

The most highly anticipated game for the PS3 in 2008 is finally here. There's never been a game quite like this in the history of gaming goodness. In LBP, players control little yarn characters, "sack-



boys," who wander all over the globe. Each cute, customizable character can manipulate and interact with all the objects and environments in the game. Ambitious players can use the stunning level-creator tools to develop their own game environments and share them online. If you don't have a PS3er on your list, then you need to get one just so you can buy them LBP and go over and play it. Yep, it's THAT good.

Resistance 2

Platform: PS3
Genre: First-person shooter
Rated: M: 17+

Exclusive to the PS3 and just in time for the holiday season, Resistance 2 launches with the biggest monsters ever, wicked-awesome graphics, remote-detonating Magnum

ammo, eight-player dynamic campaign co-op, and one-to-60 multi-player on massive maps. If that isn't enough, it's just plain adrenaline-pumping fun. You'll serve as a bullet-magnet for waves of aggressive and accurate enemies, but don't worry 'cuz at your fingertips you've got what's easily one of the coolest arsenals in the history of gaming. It's hugely entertaining.



Next week's lineup

GIFT GUIDES For a roundup of beauty products, tech gifts and much more, pick up Metro's next Holiday Shopping Guide on Dec. 11.

21 shopping days remain before Christmas.

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from the shops of
Dresden Row Market





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Holiday Shopping Guide III

Screen gems for the holidays

RICK MCGINNIS
rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

The big enchiladas

The capo di tutti capi of DVD gift sets this holiday season is undeniably HBO's **Complete Sopranos box** — a bricklike reliquary in funereal black on black, with

the discs housed in a hard-cover book tightly shrouded in a black felt bag. The whole package is a cross between the archival and the morbid, and the prime special features are spread over two new bonus discs that include dinner chats with creator David Chase and key members of the

cast and crew, as well as two fawning interviews with Chase by actor Alec Baldwin, who was never able to fulfill his dream of a role on the show.

The other big box this season is **MGM/Fox's Hollywood Musicals set**, a gaudy marquee-themed package that features 50

musicals from the 30s to the present day. The byzantine world of rights ownership means that most of MGM's signature pre-1952 mu-

sicals are missing, so Fox dominates the first of four sections of the box, which includes films like **Babes In Toyland**, **State Fair** and **Moon Over Miami**. The '50s are dominated by Rogers and Hammerstein classics like **Oklahoma** and **The King And I**, and the '60s set features a lot of Elvis movies. The final set, covering the '70s to the present, is a truly mixed bag, though a set with titles like **All That Jazz**, **The Rocky Horror Picture Show** and **Moulin Rouge** can claim to be fairly representative of the era.

Finally, Fox's successor to its landmark Ford At Fox set from last year arrives in the form of **Murnau, Borzage & Fox**, another deluxe box profiling the careers of two directors — F.W. Murnau and Frank Borzage — and studio head William Fox during the transition from silent movies to talkies. Includes the classic Murnau film **Sunrise**, as well as several other rarely-seen but brilliant films from an era unjustly overlooked even today.

The whole thing

HBO has a few big complete season collections this year, including sets for **The Wire** and **Deadwood**. There's not a lot new in **The Wire** set except for some prequel shorts, but the new box does slim down the show's shelf real estate. The **Deadwood** collection does the same, but throws in a few new bonus features, including a wander down the streets of the show's main set with creator David Milch, who is clearly unhappy with his show's premature end.

HBO also has a complete **Get Smart** collection with a simple but clever package that requires you to open a set of doors echoing the show's famous title sequence to get to the discs, which are loaded with



bonus features, including a rather dark excerpt from star Don Adams' memorial service. Finally, HBO has released a slim collection of **Generation Kill**, the Iraq War miniseries from **The Wire** creator David Simon, probably the most successful portrait of the conflict made so far.

Looking to dominate the TV box set market, HBO has also released the World War II miniseries **Band Of Brothers** on Blu-ray, which virtually duplicates the earlier DVD offering but integrates several of the special features more seamlessly into the disc menu.

Not new but improved

The **Planet Of The Apes** films have also been given a Blu-ray upgrade in a slipcased set from Fox, which excludes the TV and animated iterations of the franchise contained in the earlier "monkey head" gift set in favour of a reverent look at the 5 Apes films as cultural artifacts of the late '60s and early '70.

The Best Picture Collection from Sony is a grab bag of Oscar-winning titles, from Frank Capra chestnuts like **It Happened One Night** and **You Can't Take It With You** through David Lean's **Lawrence Of Arabia** and **Bridge On The River Kwai** to **Kramer Vs. Kramer** and **Gandhi**. If anything, it proves how much less fun Oscar films have become over the years.

The Alfred Hitchcock Premiere Collection from MGM/Fox skips through the director's early career, from his silent debut **The Lodger** through British talkies **Sabotage** and **Young And Innocent** to his early career in Hollywood with **Rebecca**, **Lifeboat**, **Spellbound**, **Notorious** and **The Paradine Case**. Packaged in a binder inside a Lucite

slipcase, it's more representative than definitive. Finally, Paul Feig and Judd Apatow's brilliant-but-cancelled series **Freaky And Geeks** has been updated with a clever yearbook-themed package from Shout Factory that collects practically every outtake and screen test left over from the shows short but indelible run on TV in the fall of 1999.

Prize inside!

Several gift sets arrive packaged around collectible items, the best example of which is **Fox's Ray Harryhausen gift set**, which puts an impressively solid figurine of one of Harryhausen's stop-motion creatures together with a DVD set featuring 2-disc sets devoted to 3 of the sci-fi/monster films he made for Columbia in the '50s.

The Mystery Science Theatre 3000 20th Anniversary Edition set comes in a tin box featuring four exquisitely lousy Z-grade pictures adorned with MST3K's trademark snarky commentary and a figurine of Crow T. Robot. Warner's limited edition reissue of 300 adds an extra disc with an in-depth production documentary and a slipcased book to its big prize — a 3D lenticular Lucite block featuring a shot from Zack Snyder's film.

Finally, **Sony's complete I Dream Of Jeannie set** comes in a cute but flimsy cardboard bottle with a set of trivia cards featuring facts from the show and interviews with the show's stars.

The
Mystery
Science
Theatre
3000 20th
Anniversary
Edition.



the 12 draws of Christmas

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New for the holidays

This Winter Berries hand-care duo also comes with a ceramic base. This new fragrance from Fruits & Passion is available for \$28. For more, go to fruits-passion.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES



Holiday Shopping Guide III

Dreaming of a Blu-ray Christmas

RICK MCGINNIS

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

Toshiba XD-E300 upconverting DVD player (\$129.99)

Toshiba was the loser in the high-def disc wars last year, supporting the (to my eyes, superior) HD-DVD format.

They're not willing to run up the white flag and surrender yet.

And that brings us to the XD-E500.

It's Sony's latest generation of upconverting DVD players, introduced to the market with the assumption that there are enough consumers with DVD libraries out there unwilling to swap them for Blu-ray at notable cost.

The XD-E500 is essentially an upconverting player that allows the viewer control over aspects of image control to give the impression of a sharper, more vivid DVD picture on high-def screens.

If you're at all familiar with image editing programs like Photoshop, you'll have no problem understanding how the XD-



E500 tweaks sharpness, contrast and saturation to squeeze every bit of juice out of a 480i image upconverted to 1080p.

The one major improvement I noticed was the ability of the player to tightly render patterns that would have been jangled, moiré-pattern messes on regular DVD.

Be warned — the XD-E500 doesn't put out true HD, but it comes as close as DVD will go, at a very reasonable price.

Panasonic DMP-BD35 (\$349.99)

Samsung BD-P1500 Blu-ray player (\$299.99)

Sony BDP S350 (\$299.99)

As Blu-ray players start bearing down on the magic \$200 price point (keep your eyes peeled during Boxing Week), these three machines will probably end up on somebody's wish list.

Since winning the format war, there hasn't been a lot of movement in the basic specs of Blu-ray players.

But one major improve-

ment is load time — all three players tested here improved the load time on previous generations of machines.

The clear winner was the Sony machine.

Sony was the most improved of all the

players.

Previous Sony machines

I've tested have been sluggish, and rejected discs with alacrity.

But the BDP S350 was the best performer of the

bunch, with the nicest interface and performance.

All three machines feature Ethernet jacks for on-line firmware updates and possible BD-Live interactivity.

This is good to see, since this was often missing on Blu-ray players during the format war.

The Panasonic's main flaw is the load time — the slowest of the three.

And the unit's price, which needs to be more competitive.

The Samsung is a fine machine, but the review unit I had went through a frustrating series of malfunctions.

It wasn't recognizing commands from either the remote or the buttons on the unit itself.

Another malfunction was throwing up the "bonus view" icon on-screen with no option to shut it off.



LG Scarlet 42LG60 LCD TV (\$1,999.99)

The flat panel TV market has reached a sort of plateau of quality, at least when you're shopping for brand name sets — picture quality is uniformly good, even excellent, now that full 1080p is pretty much standard above a certain screen size, and as a result you're likely to be picking a unit based on criterion like features and aesthetics.

In terms of aesthetics, it's hard to beat the LG Scarlet line, especially the very sculptural 42LG60

unit, with its black lacquer with red accents and the big, backlit circular hole that functions as power button and status indicator.

It's not the sort of machine that you'll hide in some home entertainment cupboard.

It practically begs to be wall-mounted, especially since the wide lower "chin" adds so much height to its profile.

The picture quality is superb, with a room light sensor that adjusts for ambience, and four HDMI units for gamers.





Silver silk

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All I want for Christmas

BY ENZA SUPERMODEL
enza.supermodel.anderson@gmail.com



Leah Miller

Claim to fame: MuchMusic VJ and host of So You Think You Can Dance Canada

GIFT SUGGESTION
Baked goods.

SHOPPING ADVENTURE

It's always an adventure trying to do that last-minute shopping. Fighting crowds at the mall is a bad idea!

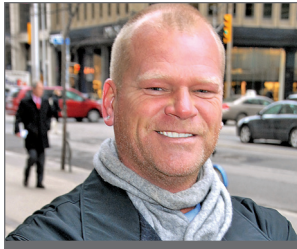
BEST GIFT RECEIVED & WHY

A garnet cocktail ring from my Grandma Barb.

WORST GIFT RETURNED & WHY
I can't think of one! I've never returned a gift.

HOLIDAY ADVICE

Don't stress about buying presents as the holidays aren't just about that. They're about spending time with family and loved ones.



Mike Holmes

Claim to fame: HGTV's Holmes on Homes

GIFT SUGGESTION
Money is the perfect gift. If you give them money, they can pick what they want.

SHOPPING ADVENTURE

I go in. I know what I want. I get it ... and I leave. I'm not one of those people that walk around.

BEST GIFT RECEIVED & WHY

Just being with my kids. I'm the type of person that if I want something, I get it myself.

WORST GIFT RETURNED & WHY
It would be a sweater from a friend. I re-gifted and gave it to someone else.

HOLIDAY ADVICE

Keep smiling. If you don't, it's not going to be a fun experience.

Colin & Justin

Claim to fame: Colin & Justin's Home Heist on HGTV

GIFT SUGGESTION

We adore EVERYTHING by Kiehls. And their candles are particularly awesome. Whatever you buy this Christmas, make sure a Forrest Rain candle is on the list. It's the loveliest, freshest smell you'll ever sniff. We're also massive champagne fiends, and our motto is: "A day without champagne is like a day without sunshine."

SHOPPING ADVENTURE

We went to Times Square in New York a couple of Christmases ago. The lights were awesome and we stayed in a Philippe Starck hotel, which was gorgeous beyond belief. Dominic Monaghan from Lost was there too and he was the sweetest guy ever. He knows a Scottish friend of ours called Stuart and that was a real ice breaker. We partied in Greenwich Village with family and spent so much money on gifts that we had to wire our bank in Britain to bail us out.



Then we missed our flight home and couldn't re-book our hotel as it was, by that point, full. So, we had to call up a friend (with whom we hadn't been in contact for five years) in a suburb called Larchmont and ask if we could stay over. After two awkward nights, we flew back to Britain, then on to Mauritius for our annual holiday. We partied on the beach with Nelson Mandela, who always stays there for New Year's. Fact! We had New Year's lunch with Faye Dunaway to wrap it all up!

A gorgeous star-studded holiday period!

BEST GIFT RECEIVED & WHY

We bought each other Chanel J12 watches as Christmas gifts last year. We have matching models in complementary white and black and they are gorgeous! Hey, we've worked hard...

WORST GIFT RETURNED & WHY

We are lucky enough to say that most of our friends know us well enough to give us appropriate gifts! Everyone

knows we LOVE LOVE LOVE scented candles (hint!) of any variety so it's difficult to miss the mark!

HOLIDAY ADVICE

Get your shopping done before the crowds go crazy! And eat, drink, and be merry when the party starts! Everything in moderation never hurt anybody! However, never drink and drive and always make sure you have a clean conscience over the holidays. Kick back, relax and start planning those New Year's resolutions!!

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Photo: Keith Cossey

It's holiday shopping time in the retail heart of Halifax. Consisting of nine city blocks, Spring Garden area has over 200 retail shops, most independently owned, served by ample convenient parking. This charming vibrant area is a shopper's paradise: brand name fashions, Nova Scotian giftware and hair salons rub shoulders with excellent restaurants, coffee houses and bars. Visit one of our shops to find that perfect gift today!



Holiday Shopping Guide III

Neat treats for him



#1



#2



#3



#5



#4



#6

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#3 Help stock his bar

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This golf-bag drink-shaker set is available for \$29.99 at HomeSense.

#4 For the man on the go

Visit: shoppersdrugmart.ca
The Real Shaving Co. Travel Kit (\$16.99) includes skincare products.

#5 For the handyman

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#6 F/P Homme Gift Set

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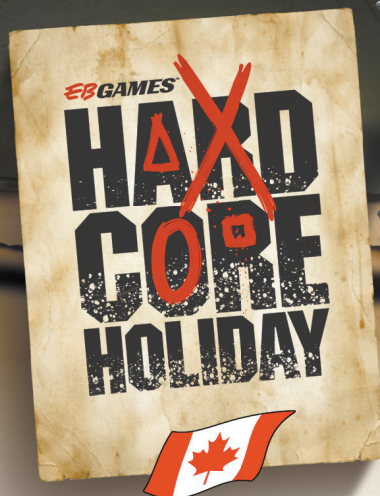
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A cracking good time
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Holiday Shopping Guide III

All she wants...



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6

#1

Sweet vintage

Visit: homesense.ca
This vintage-inspired children's pedal car (\$169.99) is available at HomeSense.

#2

Fuzzy Thomas Bear

Visit: starlightcanada.org
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#3

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#4

Eco-chic bedding

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Bratz Familiez

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Bratz World Familiez
Cloe and Her Sister dolls, \$19.99.

#6

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Holiday Shopping Guide III

Sounds of the season

Brian Towie

brian.towie@metronews.ca

THE HITS — and misses — just keep on coming. Last week, Metro reviewed some of the best, and worst, Christmas CDs of the season. But based on the sheer volume of seasonal music, we would be remiss in passing up this opportunity for more.

Tony Bennett

feat. The Count Basie Band

Album: A Swingin' Christmas

Label: Sony/BMG

Rating: ●●●●●



His voice reveals a man in his golden years, but Tony Bennett's natural talent for evoking fun and capturing drama in every track he sets his hand to remains evergreen. Jovial big-band arrangements back up Bennett's grandfatherly warmth here, especially on Christmas Time Is Here and My Favorite Things. Superb stuff.

Aretha Franklin

Album: This Christmas

Label: DMI Records

Rating: ●●●●●



The greatest singer of all time, according to Rolling Stone magazine, puts the spirit back into the season on her first-ever Christmas disc with strong ensembles, an 11-piece choir and a duet with her son. The 66-year-old Queen Of Soul particularly shines on gospel adaptations such as The Lord Will Make A Way, Angels We Have Heard On High and Silent Night — just as you might expect from a preacher's daughter.

Sarah Brightman

Album: A Winter Symphony

Label: EMI Music

Rating: ●●●●●

Brightman puts in a good mix of old and new in this eagerly anticipated followup to her Symphony album. Orchestral backup enhances Brightman's the-



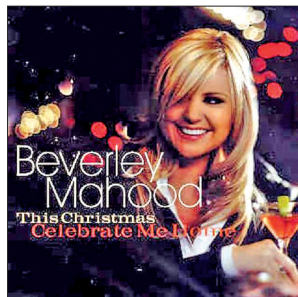
atrical style on hymns such as Silent Night and Amazing Grace, along with modern winter-themed ditties — among them Vince Gill's Colder Than Winter and Neil Diamond's I've Been This Way Before. But does an album, even one meant to help listeners celebrate the holidays, really need two versions of Ave Maria?

Beverly Mahood

Album: This Christmas

Label: BPM Entertainment

Rating: ●●●●●



The ex-member of the David Foster-produced country trio Lace brings light licks and a saccharine voice to the old Christmas standards. Mahood doesn't try anything risky or dynamic enough to make this work memorable, and it will more than likely end up as part of an inoffensive background soundtrack as the turkey roasts in the oven. Meh.

Non-holiday notable

Looking to cleanse the palette of that Christmas music overload? Get your hands on the soundtrack to Christmas On Mars, a sci-fi feature film made by The Flaming Lips. With track names such as The Gleaming Armament

Of Marching Genitalia and In Excelsior Vaginalistic, you'll at the very least be guaranteed to freak out your folks at Christmas dinner.



Take away stress by giving instead of gifting

Gifts are supposed to make people feel good, but at this time of year, finding the perfect gift can be the source of a lot of stress.

Take the focus off the gift — and place it on the act of giving. Making a charitable donation in the name of someone on your gift list provides a tremen-

dous sense of personal satisfaction for you and the person you are buying for.

Have you ever thought about getting your niece or nephew a piglet? What about parasite-free drinking water for your in-laws? Websites like ccfcanda.ca are becoming a popular way to send the ideal item to a child-in-need living in

extreme poverty overseas, all in the name of someone on your gift list.

Develop a giftless or gift-reduced tradition — give to a child-in-need in your son or daughter's name. Children are often excited to know that they have a baby goat living with a child their age in a poor country.

NEWS CANADA

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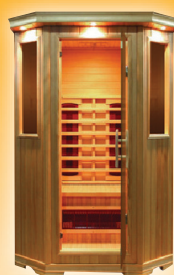
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Highly anticipated

BakeWise: The Hows and Whys of Successful Baking by Shirley O. Corriher (Simon & Schuster Publishing, \$47) is the only non-Canadian cookbook on this page. Written by the author of CookWise, this follow-up book has been very much anticipated by foodies everywhere. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

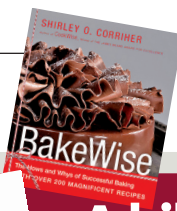
lifestyle **25**

Food

“Who doesn’t like a rich chocolate brownie every now and then?”

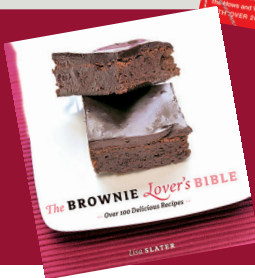
Barb Holland/for Metro Canada

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA



A bible

The Brownie Lover's Bible by Lisa Slater (Whitecap Books, \$25) features over 100 modern and classic brownie-inspired recipes, taking the brownie to a whole new level.



Welcome to the book buffet

À la carte

Barb Holland

Metro Food Writer

Each fall a fresh crop of Canadian cookbooks are produced in time for the big gift-giving season. All but one of the books on this page feature homegrown talent.

1 A Taste of Canada, A Culinary Journey by Rose Murray (Whitecap Books \$35):

This volume shows us just how distinctive Canada cuisine really is and how our land, climate and people shape it. With beautiful food and landscape photography, it is much more than a cookbook. It is historical, anecdotal, a travelogue and a wonderful read. Here is a lovely coffee table book that will also make it to the kitchen — often.

2 Crème Brûlée: More Than 50 Decadent Recipes by Dominique and Cindy Duby (Whitecap Books \$20):

This is an extensive single subject book as it explores the history of crème brûlée; the science of making of crème brûlée; basic ingredients and equipment requirements; the cooking process; sweet and savoury alternatives; and wine pairings. The Dubys are chocolatiers, chefs, and founders and owners of the acclaimed chocolate atelier and virtual boutique Wild Sweets. If your recipient has a sense of adventure (and humor), give this with a bag of sugar and a mini blowtorch.

3 Menus for an Orchard Table, Celebrating the Food & Wine of the Okanagan by Heidi Noble (Whitecap Books, \$35):

This book is a collection of seasonal recipes from Joie Wines and Farm Cooking School's renowned outdoor orchard dinners. The recipes are divided into the courses and matched with

regional wines.

4 The Main: Recipes by Anthony Sedlak (Whitecap Books, \$30):

This release is the accompanying book to the same named show on the Food Network. Sedlak chooses one ingredient as the focus for a variety of dishes and creates dinner menus around it. Timing is everything when planning and executing a dinner, so the timing tips for the 45 menus is helpful.

5 In the Kitchen with Anna: New Ways with the Classics, by Anna Olson (Whitecap Books, \$30):

Like the one before, this book also accompanies Olson's latest Food Network series, providing refreshing takes on dishes that have stood the test of time. Whether improving the nutritional value of a dish or finding faster ways to create the same flavours, the classics are reinvented with home kitchens in mind.

6 Friday Night Dinners by Bonnie Stern (Random House Canada, \$50):

This is the latest cookbook by this well-known Canadian cooking teacher and author. Bonnie celebrates Friday night dinner as the way to start the weekend with menus for every season and occasion, holidays, barbecues, fast suppers and feasts. Bonnie's son Mark took the photographs, providing a very rustic, homey feel, just right for dinners for family and friends.

On the web

Try before you buy?

- For a recipe of Braised Beef with Caramelized Root Vegetables, an excerpt from A Taste of Canada: A Culinary Journey by Rose Murray, visit metronews.ca.



Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

MENUS from an ORCHARD TABLE

the main {recipes}

Cookbooks fall from the sky during autumn — just in time for the gift-giving season. Check out this fresh Canadian talent.

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JEREMY HOTZ

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A holiday favourite, eggnog — usually made with large amounts of raw eggs and heavy cream — can be made healthier by substituting these two ingredients with a soy beverage and vanilla pudding. Use low fat pudding and an omega-3 fortified soy beverage, then spice it up with grated nutmeg. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Having happy and healthy holidays

T'is the season to eat, but that's no reason to be unhealthy during the holidays. In fact, most traditional holiday foods can be made healthier with smarter ingredient choices without compromising taste.

That's the message of leading Canadian registered dietitian Rosie Schwartz, who says there are simple ways around weight gain and sluggishness typically associated with the holiday season. Schwartz offers these tips as a recipe for success for healthier holiday fare:

Instead of cakey desserts and pastries, try an alternative like antioxidant-rich chocolate bread pudding. Made with whole wheat bread, unsweetened cocoa and soy beverage, chocolate bread pudding is a sweet and satisfying finish to any meal, containing a fraction of the calories and significantly greater health benefits than most decadent delights.

For added nutritional value, use Dempster's Smart 100% Whole Grain

Wheat bread and soy beverages like So Good Omega DHA and Silk Plus. All of these brands are made with life'sDHA, a vegetarian source of DHA omega-3, which has been proven to provide brain, eye and heart health benefits throughout life.

As a delicious alternative to eggnog, try serving a rum-infused hot chocolate drink. Combine a little soy beverage with sugar and unsweetened cocoa to make a paste, and heat it together with dark rum, vanilla and chopped bittersweet chocolate to create a taste sensation that will keep your guests coming back for more.

Chocolate Bread Pudding

For maximum antioxidant content, use chocolate with a minimum cocoa content of 70 per cent. Serves 8.

INGREDIENTS:

- 5 cups (1 L) cubed Dempster's Smart 100% Whole Grain Wheat bread (lightly dried out — leave bread exposed to air for a few hours)
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) granu-



Made with whole wheat bread, unsweetened cocoa and soy beverage, chocolate bread pudding is a sweet and satisfying finish.

lated sugar

- 2 tbsp (25 mL) unsweetened cocoa, sifted
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 5 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) DHA-fortified soy beverage, such as So Good Omega DHA or Silk Plus brands
- 2 tsp (10 mL) vanilla extract

- 2 oz (50 g) chopped bittersweet chocolate

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 350°F/180°C. Prepare an 8-cup/2 L baking dish by spraying with vegetable oil cooking spray. Put bread cubes in baking dish. In a large bowl, mix together sugar, cocoa and salt; set aside.

In a medium bowl, whisk together eggs, DHA-fortified soy beverage and vanilla until well blended. Stir in chopped chocolate. Stir into dry ingredients and mix until well blended. Pour egg mixture over bread cubes and stir until bread is well coated. Bake for 55 to 65 minutes or un-

til a knife inserted in centre comes out clean.

Serve warm or cold.

Hot Rum Chocolate

Serves 4.

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 1/2 cups (875 mL) DHA-fortified soy beverage, such as So Good Omega DHA or Silk Plus brands
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) sugar
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) unsweetened cocoa, sifted
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) dark rum (optional)
- 1 tsp (7 mL) vanilla extract
- 1 oz (25 g) chopped bittersweet chocolate

METHOD:

In a medium bowl, stir sugar and cocoa together. Add rum and vanilla; stir to make a smooth paste. Whisk in 1/2 cup (125 mL) soy beverage and chopped chocolate; set aside.

Heat remaining 3 cups (750 mL) soy beverage in a medium-saucepan over medium-high heat until steaming. Remove from heat and whisk the cocoa mixture into the soy beverage until frothy. Serve immediately.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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what's cooking

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Royal treatment at the shopping mall

U.S. retailers hope to put shoppers in a merry enough mood to shop amid economic tough times, by decking the halls, stocking up with brightly coloured merchandise, even lining up employees at the door to applaud customers as they enter the store. **REUTERS**

Style



Hutton's hot comeback

At 64, Lauren Hutton is giving the young crop of It models competition in the ad campaign area. In addition to starring in the autumn/winter ads for Mango, Hutton will appear in the campaign for Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen's line, Elizabeth and James. "She's older and she's beautiful, and that is sexy to us," Contactmusic.com quotes Ashley as saying. Hutton also modeled with Mary-Kate in an editorial spread in Harper's Bazaar earlier this year.

KENYA HUNT/FOR METRO CANADA

Stay in with sleepwear and slippers

Style File

Kim Elbo



kim.elbo@gmail.com

ask kim

I'm looking to personalize a gift and would like to get it embroidered. Where can I go to get this done?

Some department stores and home decor stores such as Restoration Hardware offer monogram embroidery for a small price, but they may have a limited selection of styles and fonts. If the store you bought your gift does not offer the service you're looking for, head to an embroiderer or tailor.

E-mail your style questions to kim.elbo@gmail.com.

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.



Tiered Ruffles

Designer: La Senza
Shop: La Senza
Address: Various locations
lasenza.com



Sweet Stripes

Designer: Spreegirl
Shop: BeautyMark
Address: beautymark.ca



See-through Aqua

Designer: La Vie en Rose
Shop: La Vie en Rose
Address: Various locations
lavieenrose.com



Bootie

Designer: La Vie en Rose
Shop: La Vie en Rose
Address: Various locations
lavieenrose.com



Knit Shoe

Designer: American Eagle
Shop: American Eagle
Address: Various locations
ae.com



Slip-on

Designer: Bonjour Fleurette
Shop: Fine Finds
finefindsboutique.com

Sleepwear

Leave the fireplace on and stay comfy and cozy in bed with these three camisole sets. Like to keep things hot in bed? Search for fabrics like cashmere, wool or cotton to stay warm all night. Finer fabrics like silks will keep you cooler in bed if you like it a little chilly. Remember when you're getting out of bed, you might want to cover up quickly so look out for a dressing gown or a house coat the next time you're out shopping for sleepwear.

Stressed? Take a bath and relax with Soap & Glory's Calm One Calm All double-function formula bubbling bath soak and lotion. Available at Shoppers Drug Mart for \$10.



Slippers

We all know how chilly our feet can get during the winter months, and when you're at home it's even worse with hardwood or tiled flooring, so keep warm with slippers. Pamper your peds with a pair complete with sole padding and thick knits to surround your feet in comfortable socks. Or go for slip-ons for easy access like the Bonjour Fleurette slipper. Look for rubber soles — if you're prone to slipping — and washable versions.

tip: Before climbing into a bath, fill your bathroom sink with hot water. Then place your body lotion in the hot water. When you get out of your bath, your lotion will be nice and warm. — tipztime.com

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt



Exclusively at
metronews.ca/globalstyle

psst... Fierce! Project Runway Season Four winner, Christian Siriano will design his first-ever footwear and handbag collection; available exclusively at select Payless stores across Canada in Fall '09.

'stylin! metro's kooolest

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Entertainment



The greatest

Brad Pitt's enigmatic Fight Club antihero Tyler Durden has been crowned the Greatest Movie Character of All Time by Empire magazine.

IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Britney morphs into Madonna on new album, Circus

Britney Spears

Album: Circus
Label: Jive/Sony
Rating: ●●●●½

THE WORLD IS certainly a very freaky place. First Michael Jackson morphed



physically into Diana Ross. Now, Britney Spears is morphing musically into Madonna. Maybe there was some kind of tongue-to-tongue gene transfer-

MusicReviews

music@metronews.ca

ence in that liplock Madonna threw on Britney a couple of years back. With the aid a phalanx of producers armed with the latest computer gadgetry to bolster her otherwise limp voice, Britney has managed to put together a decent pop/dance album. It's not as good as last year's surprising

Blackout released when Brits was still loony as two sack-fuls of cats. But no

one cared to listen back then, so this will probably be praised as Britney's greatest ... ever ... further contributing to the bizarre reconstruction of this troubled pop star into the heiress of the Material Girl's legacy. Ugh. She's even dressing like her.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Neil Young

Album: Sugar Mountain, Live at Canterbury House 1968

Label: Reprise/Warner

Rating: ●●●●●

THIS IS A HAPPIER, more innocent Neil Young than the slow-talking introvert we heard on the 1971 Massey Hall concert that was released last year as part of his performance se-



ries. Here, he's laughing with the crowd, exchanging jokes, riffing on Classical Gas and telling wild stories about getting fired from a Coles book store for eating little red diet pills. Recorded in gleaming two-track stereo (voice on left, guitar on right), the 14 songs are drawn mainly from his underappreciated self-titled debut — the concert was recorded at an Ann Arbor coffee house the week of its release. There's also a few Buffalo Springfield classics, like Out of My Mind, Mr. Soul, and Nowadays Clancy Can't Even Sing. True Neil Young fans will go gaga for the title track, his boyhood ode to Sugar Mountain, as well as the surrealist saga, Last Trip To Tulsa and the beautiful, but rarely heard, Old Laughing Lady.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

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SUNDAY 7



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Frozen River gets Spirit nods

Border-smuggling crime movie Frozen River won best picture and breakthrough acting awards at the Gotham Independent Film ceremony Tuesday, as well as sharing top billing in nominations for the Spirit Awards for independent filmmakers.

Melissa Leo, 48, was named by IFP, organizer of the Gotham awards, as breakthrough actor of the

year for her role in Frozen River. She portrays a desperate single mother who is drawn into the world of immigrant smuggling near a Mohawk reservation between New York state and Quebec.

Leo's performance has riveted movie critics, and the Gotham award and Spirit nomination put her in line for wider recognition as Hollywood's three-

month movie awards season kicks into gear.

Earlier on Tuesday, Frozen River received six Spirit Award independent-movie nominations along with family drama Rachel Getting Married starring Anne Hathaway, and small-town drama Ballast.

The Spirit Awards, one of the best-known honours for independent movies, are handed out Feb. 21 on the eve of the annual Oscar ceremony.

Spirit Award organizers

Tuesday announced that this year's prestigious Robert Altman Award, given to the best director, casting director and ensemble cast, was won by Synecdoche, New York.

The movie also shared the best ensemble award from Gotham along with Woody Allen's Vicky Cristina Barcelona. The Gotham Awards were handed out in New York on Tuesday.

Synecdoche, New York, a quirky tale of a despairing theatre director played by Philip Seymour Hoffman, was written and directed by Charlie Kaufman and picked up another three Spirit nominations, including best screenplay, in the main categories.

REUTERS

Awards

- The Hollywood awards season moves into full gear this month with nominations for the Golden Globes and the Screen Actors Guild awards, which are handed out in January ahead of the Oscars, Feb. 22.

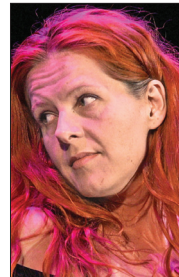
Neko Case's Cyclone to hit stores in March

MUSIC Neko Case will follow 2006's Fox Confessor Brings the Flood, the best-selling album of her career, with Middle Cyclone.

Due March 3 via Anti-, the collection boasts guest appearances from the Band's Garth Hudson, fellow Canadian singer-songwriter Sarah Harmer, M. Ward, members of Case's primary band, the New Pornographers, and musicians from Calexico, Los Lobos, Giant Sand, the Lilys and the Sadies.

The album's 12 original tunes are augmented by covers of Harry Nilsson's

Don't Forget Me and Sparks' Never Turn Your Back on Mother Earth.



Neko Case

Fox Confessor Brings the Flood brought Case to a new level of commercial visibility, having sold

194,000

copies in the United States, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

REUTERS/BILLBOARD

Bonnaroo sets dates

CONCERTS The eighth Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival takes place June 11 to 14, 2009, in Manchester, Tenn., an hour southeast of Nashville.

The first round of ticket presales begins today. A

lineup announcement is expected early next year.

The initial batch of tickets will be available for the first time as part of a payment plan encompassing five installments of \$50 US.

REUTERS

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Holiday Show



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Holiday Show



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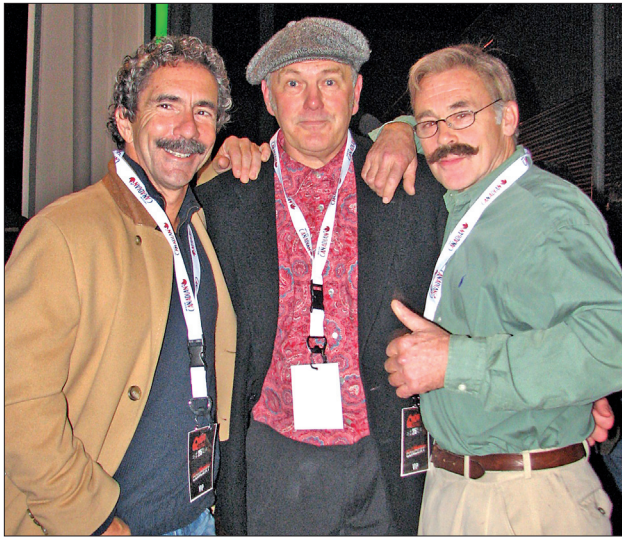
DANCE CANADA

SUNDAY 7



dance.ctv.ca

Jack Nicholson and Jane Fonda will be inducted into the California Hall of Fame in Sacramento on Dec. 15. The actors are joined on the list of 2008 inductees by musicians Dave Brubeck and Quincy Jones, fitness guru Jack LaLanne, sculptor Robert Graham and chef Alice Waters. IMDB.COM



Q-104's first morning host Brother Jake Edwards, from left, Doug Barron (a.k.a. Hal Harbour) and John Dunsworth (Trailer Park Boys' Mr. Lahey) at the Q-104 anniversary party.



Tara Jooffe, left, Krista Rodgers and Natalie Fleming backstage for 54-40 at the Cunard Centre anniversary concert.



Q-104 alumnus BJ Wilson with Joel Plaskett and former co-host Lisa Blackburn backstage at the Q-104 anniversary concert.



Jay (Mad Dog) McNeil and his wife, Sherri, at the Q-104 25th anniversary concert.



(Sexy Girl) Rachel Dodds and Q-104's Bobby Mac at the Q-104 25th anniversary concert.



Mark Williams and Jill MacCuspie watch snowboard demonstrations Saturday night at the Grande Parade.

Partying like a rock star

HalifaxScene

Jamie Paterson

After this last weekend, I am physically and emotionally exhausted. Some valuable lessons were learned, including the fact that I can no longer party like a rock star!

The roller-coaster began with the Q-104 Quarter Century Concert at the Cunard Centre. The show was to feature April Wine, who were to be surprised with a reunion of the original members.

The drama began when lead singer Myles Goodwin collapsed at the Montreal airport on his way to Halifax and was hospitalized. Enter into the picture: The

Joel Plaskett Emergency. Joel was slated to start the show with just a single song and the rest of band happened to buy tickets. After April Wine pulled out, the group offered its services and the show would go on! Blistering performances from 54-40 and Sam Roberts peeled the paint off the walls, but most fans say it was Matt Mays and El Torpedo who really blew the roof off.

Some 4,000 people feted Q-104 on its 25th anniversary. A special treat for fans of the station was a reunion of all the previous morning show hosts from the last quarter century. Folks like Brother Jake Edwards (now in Vancouver), BJ Wilson (now in Calgary), Jay McNeil (in Toronto under the name Mad Dog) and yours truly (now your bleary-eyed "man on the Scene") were flown in for the weekend. In a flashback to the station's first birthday party, the four-tier

cake was cut with a chainsaw! The reunion continued all weekend with former announcers on air telling stories about the good old days and catching up on where they are now.

Also Friday night, A Christmas Carol returned to the metro stage. After a hiatus, Jeremy Webb is back as Ebenezer Scrooge in the Charles Dickens classic. Performances run until tonight, then Webb takes the show on the road, hitting schools and smaller communities. The show is back at Neptune for the run-up to Christmas, Dec. 16 to 27. Even if you've seen it before, the production has a new set, puppets and scenes. Webb says his crew is rounded out with the addition of Sarah English and Kristen Langille. Information is on the web at www.bahhumbug.ca.

It was time to rock out Saturday with Neil Young on stage at the Metro Centre. It's been a few years

since the "Godfather of Grunge" was in Halifax and those who saw the last show said he didn't really interact with the audience. Saturday's show was no comparison: It was a full-on sonic experience. Young seemed to enjoy himself as much as the audience. A few ears are still ringing, I'm sure.

Leaving the Metro Centre, imagine my surprise to see a ski hill in the middle of Grand Parade! Turns out it was the Urban Butter Showcase featuring some of the best snowboarders in the region that blew into town. More than \$10,000 in prizes was up for grabs and Ski Martock took care of blowing in tons of snow for the night.

Christmas party season is here and I want to get an invite! E-mail me at beatle-jamie@eastlink.ca.

When he's not making the Scene, Jamie Paterson hosts The Drive and The Beatlebrunch on KOOL FM in Halifax



Q-104 alumni Andrew Boyle and Cindy Bonhomme at the Q-104 25th anniversary party.



Trailer Park Boys' Pat Roach with his wife, Candye (and a shirt!) at the Q-104 bash.



Q-104 alumni Doug Caldwell, left, (Rockin') Ray Plourde and Jeff Woods discuss old times at the Carleton.

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Kitchen - The kitchen is one room that can take a lot of colour, so take a cue from the Europeans and paint your walls. Update the sink with an elegant goose-neck faucet, or buy new breakfast stools or a rolling butcher block. Stash appliances in cupboards and leave out one statement piece: a vintage breadbox, an old-fashioned scale or a trio of quirky tins.

(continued online...)

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Another round of Speed?

Movie executives at 20th Century Fox are reaching out to Keanu Reeves, right, to reprise his Jack Traven character for a third Speed film, according to Internet reports. [IMDB.COM](#)



Prison recalls Winehouse's husband

PEOPLE Amy Winehouse's husband Blake Fielder-Civil is being sent back to prison, just one month after he was released into rehab, People.com reports his lawyer as saying. "I can confirm he has been recalled," says Fielder-Civil's lawyer Kate Anderson, declining to state the reason.

A source close to Fielder-Civil tells People that he failed a drug test.

The 26-year-old, who was sentenced to 27 months on charges of assault and attempting to pervert the course of justice, had been in rehab as part of his early release from jail.

Anderson tells People that "the position on recall is that you then serve the remainder of the sentence" — meaning Fielder-Civil would remain in jail until 2010.

The U.K.'s Sun newspaper also reports that Fielder-Civil ran away from the rehab facility Tuesday night to visit to his estranged wife.

Winehouse, 25, remains hospitalized in London as part of her ongoing treatment, her rep told People earlier this week.

Fielder-Civil "turned up in hospital and hell broke loose," according to The Sun's source. "He was asking Amy to forgive him."

Winehouse and Fielder-Civil wed in Miami in 2007. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Third season for Californication

COMEDY Showtime has green-lighted a third season of its comedy series Californication, which stars David Duchovny as a hedonistic Los Angeles writer. The premium cable network has ordered 12 episodes scheduled to go into production in the spring for a late 2009 premiere. Duchovny plays Hank Moody a, novelist and blogger who struggles to raise his Goth-loving teen daughter (Madeleine Martin), while still carrying a torch for his disapproving ex-girlfriend (Natascha McElhone). Evan Handler also stars in the series, which is created and executive produced by Tom Kapinos. Duchovny won a Golden Globe this year for his role. **REUTERS**

Here come the fillers
NBC shows getting bulked up to cover airtime

IntelleVision



NOW I KNOW THE NETWORKS ARE IN TROUBLE: Casablanca, a much-loved film classic, is 102 minutes long. The Wizard Of Oz is 101 minutes, and Citizen Kane is 105 minutes, but when Celebrity Apprentice returns to NBC early next year, it will be two hours long, with commercials.

I'm not sure what that all means, but I think it bears thinking about.

"Donald has always felt the boardrooms were too short, and I think he's right," Mark Burnett, the show's executive producer, told TV Week magazine. "Right now, there's really only about nine minutes of footage that we use and the boardroom (scenes) go

on for hours sometimes. The problem has been trying to squeeze it all in. Every season we go through the struggle of cutting the show down."

A shortfall in programming was one of the outcomes feared when the writer's strike ground on to a third month, and it seems to have played out on cue, especially at NBC, the most erratic and afflicted of the four networks, especially under the up-is-down-black-is-white reign of Ben Silverman.

Celebrity Apprentice isn't the only show that's getting bulked up to fill airtime — The Biggest Loser: Couples will be expanding to fit a two-hour slot on Tuesdays, and Howie Do It, the new Howie Mandel comedy vehicle co-produced by NBC and Canwest, will be hour-long on Fridays.

According to TV Week, NBC will feature at least five hours of unscripted programming in primetime

"A shortfall in programming was one of the outcomes feared when the writer's strike ground on to a third month, and it seems to have played out on cue, especially at NBC."

every week this winter.

And if that doesn't work out, there are live executions and all those hours of Japanese game shows where people take pot shots at each other over shark tanks and open sewers.

COOKED UP: First Gordon Ramsay's career goes into power dive when he's hit with allegations of cheating on his wife and betraying the family man image he's cultivated over the years, and now Nigella

Lawson is accused of riding a fake bus and cooking in a fake home.

The UK Daily Mail tabloid accused Lawson of deceiving her viewers by staging a scene of her riding a London bus with extras, and of shooting the cooking scenes supposedly set at her home in a studio. Lawson fired back at the "dingbats" at the Mail in a Guardian article, saying that viewers know what they're watching. "When I say on TV, 'This cake takes 20 minutes to bake' and then one minute later it's ready, what do they think I have done? Do they think I have some kind of Time Lord qualities?"

If this looks at all ridiculous, let's just remember we're talking about British food programs, the mere existence of which is an improbability defying all known laws of nature.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Campbell joins Philanthropist

SERIES Canadian actress Neve Campbell is returning to series television with a co-starring role on NBC's midseason drama The Philanthropist. The Philanthropist centres on Teddy Rist (James Purefoy), a renegade billionaire who uses his wealth, connections and power to help people in need around the world. Party of Five alumna Campbell will play the wife of his business partner and life-long friend, Phillip (Jesse Martin). **REUTERS**

Chicken Soup ordered for TV

DEAL Dick Clark Prods. has inked a deal with Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing to develop an unscripted TV series based on the best-selling books to be co-hosted by book series co-creator Jack Canfield. The Chicken Soup franchise has sold more than 112 million copies. **REUTERS**

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at [metronews.ca/movies](#)

critics' corner

Before Sunrise
An American (Ethan Hawke) traveling by train to Vienna, Austria, encounters a beautiful French student (Julie Delpy) on her way back to Paris. After the two strike up a conversation over coffee, he suggests she come with him so they can spend more time together before his flight home. 10 PM on V



30 Rock
It's been statistically proven that a successful high-school reunion happens once every 50 years. Yet Jack (Alec Baldwin) convinces Liz (Tina Fey) that she should go to her reunion against her better judgment. Meanwhile, Don Geiss (guest star Rip Torn) wakes up from his coma and shocks Jack with a declaration about who will be the company's CEO. 10:31 PM on NBC

Barbara Walters Presents: The 10 Most Fascinating People of 2008
We're not sure who left it up to Barbara Walters to decide who are the 10 most fascinating people each year, but this year she outdoes herself with choices from the worlds of entertainment, sports, politics and pop culture including Will Smith, Tom Cruise, Tina Fey, Rush Limbaugh, Miley Cyrus and Michael Phelps. 11:01 PM on ABC

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/4/08	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wild News	Holiday Lights Cast members.	Ugly Betty (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		Fascinating
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Instant Star	TMZ (N)		Santa Baby (2006, Comedy) Jenny McCarthy, Ivan Sergei.		Eleventh Hour
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy!	NHL Hockey New York Rangers at Montreal Canadiens. (HDTV) (Live)					National
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Terre humaine	Pyramide (SC)	Virginie (SC)	House	Enquête (HDTV) (SC)	Grosse vie (N)	C.A. (N) (SC)	Le Téléjournal
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Survivor: Gabon (N)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Eleventh Hour
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	La Fièvre de la danse (SC)		A New Day: Céline live à Las Vegas (HDTV)			TVA 22 heures
	6	6	6	CHIF	Entertainment	ET Canada	90210		Survivor: Gabon (N)	The Office (N)	Billable Hours	News (N)
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	ER "Let it Snow" (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Grey's Anatomy (N)		News (N)
	10	10	10	ELTV	(6) EastLink Television				Podium TV			
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Kitchen Nightmares (PA)	Kitchen Nightmares (PA)		Fox First
primetime	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	The Office (N)	30 Rock (11:01) ER
	29	29	29	NW	World News	Business	CBC News	Newman	The Hour John Bolton.		CBC News: The National	Nature-Things
	4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Greater Boston	Steves Europe		Steves Europe	Rick Steves' Europe		Priests at Armagh Cathedral
	35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Business Rpt.	Worldfocus		Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles			Roy Orbison & Friends
	68	68	68	TQS	(6:30) Le Retour (SC)	Rire et délire	Loft Story		A la recherche de John Christmas ** (2003, Drame)			110 pour cent
	23	96	96	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Commodities	GetConnected	Business News	Squeeze Play	Market Call
	18	18	18	CNN	(5) The Situation Room	Lou Dobbs Tonight			Campbell Brown: No Bias		CNN Presents "Scream Bloody Murder"	
	54	54	54	GOLF	Golf Clinic	Memorial	Champions Year End Special	Paula Creamer	Golf Central	Big Break X: Michigan		Big Break X
	52	52	52	RSE	Prime Time Sports		Heads-Up Poker Champ.	Best Damn Top 50 Special		Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55	SCOR	Hockey Talk	Game On	College Basketball USC at Oklahoma. (Live)			Cabby Unlimit	Poker Million Pound Challenge.	
news	45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips		Pinks	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out		Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)	Wrecked
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	Madden Nation	NFL Football Oakland Raiders at San Diego Chargers. (HDTV) (Live)			
	43	43	43	FAM	Zoeys 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek
	44	44	44	TOON	6teen	Total Drama	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	The Critic
	26	26	26	TREE	Max & Ruby	Franklin's Magic	Christmas	Night Grdn	Toot & Puddle	Franklin	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch
	27	27	27	YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	H2O, Just Add	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol
	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Wannabe"		The First 48		The First 48 (HDTV)	The First 48
	70	70	70	APTN	News		Suaangan	Wapos Bay	By the Rapids	renegadeexpress	Johnny Mnemonic * (1995, Science Fiction)	
	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (Live)		Theater-Mind		Waist Deep * (2006, Action) Tyrese Gibson, Larenz Tate.			Gangster
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal		Desperate Housewives		Snapshot	In the Mind ...	Cake (2005, Romance-Comedy)	
sports	25	25	25	CMT	Live & Up Front: Doc Walker		Totally	Hollywood				
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park
	153	153	153	COURT	Truth, Duty, Valour		The Investigators		Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Navy SEALs: Untold Stories	Investigators
	38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)		The Body Machine			MythBusters
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes on Homes Attic.		The Fix	Disaster DIY
	46	46	46	HIST	Finding the Fallen		NCIS "Kill Ari"		Lost Worlds		Finding the Fallen	NCIS
	17	17	17	MM	Meet Barkers	Meet Barkers	Gossip Girl (HDTV)		All Access	You Can Dance		Dance
	19	19	19	MMM	MusicProfile	mmmtop10.com		Back In	MuchMoreMusicOnStage		VideoFlow	Revival
	201	201	201	M1	(6:05) The Cradle		(7:55) Beowulf ** (2007, Adventure), Angelina Jolie				City of Men *** (2007, Drama)	
	48	23	23	OLN	The Amazing Race 6		Ed's Up	Videos	Commando: On the Front Line		Survivorman	Pilot Guides
family	51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	House-Payne	House-Payne	Romy and Michele's High School Reunion ** (1997)			Cheers
	206	206	206	PIX	Avenging Warriors (1990, Drama)			Red Sundown ** (1956, Western)		Posse *** (1993, Western)		
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)	RDI en direct
	39	39	39	SHOW	EastEnders	Spaced	Painkiller Jane		ReGenesis "Haze"		Trailer Park	Trailer Park
	40	40	40	SLICE	Matchmaker	Til Debt-Part	End of Leash	ET Canada	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		X-Weighted	Biggest Loser
	47	47	47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1		Lost		Star Trek: Voyager		Battlestar Galactica	Chuck
	14	14	14	SPIKE	CSI: NY "Trapped"		CSI: NY "Wasted"		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		TNA IMPACT! (HDTV) (N)	
	57	98	98	STAR	FashionTele	Look-A-Like	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Look-A-Like	etalk Profile
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear		Overhaulin' (HDTV)		American Chopper		American Chopper	Tonight Show
	56	34	34	TROP	Make or Break	Naked Fashion	Beverly Hills, 90210		Make or Break	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld
cable variety	20	20	20	TV5	Que-champion	Journal de Fr2	Toute une histoire		Club social		Envoyé spécial	
	28	28	28	V	Jozzi-H (DVS)		Murder, She Wrote		Wait for God	Keeping Up	Before Sunrise *** (1995, Romance)	
	60	97	97	VIVA	Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		The West Wing	Passion
	22	22	22	W	House	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House
	251	251	251	WGN	Be-Millionaire	Evening News	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville "Plastique"		Supernatural (HDTV)	WGN News



Actor Dylan McDermott will soon be a single man once again. On Tuesday, a Los Angeles superior court judge ruled that the divorce between McDermott and his wife, Shiva Rose, will be finalized on Jan. 2. THECELEBRITYCAFE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Kevin a happy dad Spears gets proposals

PARENTING Kevin Federline has been called many things in the nearly five years since Britney Spears walked into his life: Gold-digger, wannabe rapper, partier. These days he answers to one name: Daddy, People.com reports.

Since splitting with Spears in 2006, the former back-up dancer, 30, has channelled all of his energy into their sons Preston, 3, and Jayden, 2.

"My first question to (my lawyer) was, 'Am I ever going to be able to see my children?'" Federline said, re-

garding working out a custody arrangement with Spears.

She was the one who called it quits on their marriage, he added.

"It's hard enough to be in a marriage, and then have a kid, then kids — it changes everything," Federline said. "For me, I'd become more concerned with my children. Not that I ignored Britney, but my kids are always most important ... I mean, we were having complications. I didn't give her an ultimatum, but I was trying to work stuff out with her."

PEOPLE Britney Spears has received two marriage proposals, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer, who has wed twice before, is said to have been propositioned by her paparazzo ex-boyfriend Adnan Ghalib, who she met up with in September.

"Adnan has been bombarding Britney with texts telling her he loves her ... He has even asked her to marry him," a source said. "Britney was taken aback. She and Adnan have amazing chemistry. But she knows he is bad news, and now friends and family are worried she will give him a second chance."

However, Spears has also reportedly received a proposal from hair salon manager Salvatore D'Angelo, whom she was introduced to last month.

"Salvatore just came out with it and popped the

question two weeks ago ... Britney was thrilled but told him she has to concentrate on work and being a good mother to her two sons. However, she said if he still feels the same way at the end of next year, she will consider marrying him."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Watts to pose in buff for art

PEOPLE Actress Naomi Watts is to strip for a nude painting by a top Australian artist, imdb.com reports.

Watts has reportedly agreed to pose for David Bromley, who is famed for his naked portraits of famous women, as part of his submis-

sion for Australia's prestigious Archibald Prize next year.

Bromley, who has also painted Kylie Minogue, is delighted the star has agreed to the project.

"My people are talking to her people," he says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Coleman pleads no contest in court

LEGAL Actor Gary Coleman has pleaded no contest to disorderly conduct after attacking a photographer outside a Utah bowling alley, imdb.com reports.

The former Diff'rent Strokes star was in court on Tuesday to face charges stemming from the incident, which took

place earlier this year. He was fined.

Coleman and his wife reportedly hit Colt Rushton with their vehicle in a Payson parking lot after he refused to stop taking cellphone snapshots of the couple.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Miller's rep blasts British press

RUMOUR Sienna Miller's representative has blasted the British press for alleging the actress had split from oil heir Balthazar Getty last month, insisting recent quotes attributed to the star are "three years old," imdb.com reports.

The actress has been romantically linked to Getty since the summer when they were seen in Prague in the Czech Republic, on the set of Miller's new movie G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra.

Miller was rumoured to have broken off her romance with Getty. She was then alleged to have confirmed the split

and was quoted as saying, "I'm single at the moment, and I'm completely happy with that."

Miller and Getty later appeared to have rekindled their love affair, after they were spotted together in London last week.

But Miller's spokesperson claims the couple never parted ways in the first place, and is adamant the quotes have been rehashed from an old interview, because the actress hasn't commented on her private life in recent weeks.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



HELLO!

Hot shot of the week



Recently honoured in Rome with a retrospective of his work, filmmaker David Cronenberg reflects on a trip to the Italian capital exclusively in HELLO! Canada. "It was a very sweet experience," writes the Toronto-born Eastern Promises director, who brought his family, including his photographer daughter Caitlin (who took the picture, above, at the Colosseum). HELLO! CANADA magazine, now available on newsstands - read more at hellomagazine.ca

Olsen's rep denies pregnancy reports

RUMOUR Despite a recent National Enquirer report, Mary-Kate Olsen is not expecting her first child, us-magazine.com reports.

"Mary-Kate is absolutely not pregnant," her rep said. According to the paper, rumours the 22-year-old was pregnant started when her weight shot up to 102 pounds.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Chenoweth to pen memoirs

BOOK Actress/singer Kristin Chenoweth is the latest celebrity to write about her own life in a forthcoming memoir, imdb.com reports. The Pushing Daisies star will discuss being adopted, her rise to fame, and her role in the hit Broadway show Wicked. The book is scheduled to hit shelves in April.

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